Renewable Energy Development and Siting Task Force Sept. 6, 2019 2PM

Agenda

- Welcome
 - Welcome and attendance taken by Greg Snook
- From the Chair
 - Snook went over the mission of the task force.
 - Snook introduced the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) and David Tancabel, who then reviewed the Certificate of Public Convenience (CPCN) process.

Presentation

- Tancabel went through the presentation, while taking questions.
 - PPRP explained that one of the main questions that they are asked is, "How much land is needed to meet the solar carve out?"
 - PPRP estimates ~25,000 acres.
 - This figure does not include rooftop solar.
 - A range of 25,000-43,000 acres were discussed
- PPRP explained smart siting, which gives developers an idea of where to put projects that reach the nexus of renewable resource availability, infrastructure proximity, and land suitability.
 - In 2015, in partnership with MEA, PPRP created the SmartDG+ program, which is a free, online GIS based tool.
 - PPRP is happy to demo the tool for anybody.
 - Les Knapp said that the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) has been working with PPRP to provide demos.
- Jason Dubow wanted to know more about the designation and identification of agricultural land with high value soils.
 - Tancabel said that in their project assessment report, if it's on specific soil it gets noted on the report, which goes to the Public Service Commission (PSC).
- Snook asked how long it takes to go through the CPCN process and if it is the same process for each county.
 - Tancabel said it depends on the preparation of the developer. It could take 1+ years if developers need to keep submitting data.
- Stephen Schatz asked if there is any conversation between the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and PPRP about including priority funding or preservation areas in SmartDG+.
 - PPRP explained that the next step is to put the priority preservation areas for those counties that have adopted them into the SmartDG+ tool.

Other Business

- Snook said he is looking at hosting another call in the next 1-2 weeks.
- Lewis brought up the need for more information on brownfields and landfills.

- Shawn Seaman said they do have a layer in SmartDG+ with brownfield and landfill data that comes directly from the Maryland Department of the Environment, but they were in the process of updating the information.
 - Secretary Grumbles said he absolutely wants to work on that front to get up-to-date numbers on the brownfields and landfills.
- Billy Bishoff mentioned rooftop and parking lot solar, along with incentivizing the use of brownfields.
- Terry McGean asked what counts towards the 14.5% and if has to be utility scale.
 - PPRP said rooftop still contributes to the in-state solar carve out.
- Adjournment
 - Snook adjourned the call at 3:09PM.

Attendees

- Abigail Peryea, MEA
- Adam Gruzs, MDP
- Adrienne Noel, Maryland Environmental Service (MES)
- Allison Cordell, Governor 's Office
- April King, MES
- Ben Grumbles, MDE
- Billy Bishoff, Maryland Farm Bureau representative
- Cassie Shirk, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- David Comis, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- David Tancabel, PPRP, DNR
- Devon Dodson, MDE
- Ewing McDowell, Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce)
- Greg Snook, Chair
- Hannah Schaeffer, Governor's Office
- Helen Stewart, PPRP, DNR
- James McKitrick, DNR
- Janet Christensen-Lewis, Maryland Farm Bureau representative
- Jason Dubow, MDP
- Joey Chen, PSC
- Julie Oberg, MDA
- Kyle McColgan, Commerce
- Les Knapp, MACo representative
- Mary Beth Tung, MEA
- Roy McGrath, MES
- Ryan Opsal, MEA
- Sandra Schrader, MDP
- Shawn Seaman, PPRP, DNR
- Stephen Schatz, Governor's Office
- Terry McGean, Maryland Municipal League representative